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The Practical
**HORTI-
CULTURIST**
January 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet a Co-Hort: Tiffany Clifton

Tiffany “Tif” Clifton and Matt Johnson own and operate Long Walk Farm, where they raise produce that they sell in the Omaha-Council Bluffs area because they believe in the possibility of eating locally-grown food year-round without competing with nature..

Why do you grow horticulture crops: Because we eat all year!

What is something you’re excited about trying this year: I’m excited about exploring value-added products. They sell for a higher price, plus it makes all this great produce available for much more of the year.



What is one thing you would change: I wish everyone believed local food was accessible to them and available without a hassle. Everyone should be able to - and know they can - eat local all the time.

Favorite PFI memory: Last week’s [PFI Hort Meet-up](#) at Woodbine! It was great to connect with other farmers doing what I do who have such a range of experiences and perspectives - and it was just a short drive for me.

Your favorite crop: I love turnips! Most people don’t know about their sweetness and versatility, but you can eat them in so many ways - mashed, sauteed, fresh, their roots, their greens - and they store for such a long time!



PROGRAM UPDATES

Thinking about potting mix



As many horticulture farmers are busy seeding this time of year, potting mix quality may be front-of-mind. Farmers **Hannah Breckbill, Emliy Fagan** and **Jon Yagla** took a close look at potting mixes from Beautiful Land Products, Cowsmo and Vermont Compost Company to compare their effects on their vegetable seedlings. Explore their discoveries in [this report from 2020](#).

Remember to complete PFI's member survey!

Every three years, PFI members get to complete a survey that provides our staff and board a membership snapshot and helps guide future programming. All current members should have received a survey invitation by email on Jan. 13, 2023, from surveys@practicalfarmers.org. Please check your inbox (and spam folder)!

If you have questions, or prefer to complete the survey by phone, contact **Steve Carlson** at



steve.carlson@practicalfarmers.org
or (515) 232-5661.

Thank you for helping guide our
farmer-led organization!

IN THE FIELD

2023 Commercial Apple Growers Workshop a huge success!



PFI's 2023 Commercial Apple Growers Workshop took place at Wilson's Orchard in Iowa City on February 7. Over 50 attendees heard from speakers on lower-input pest management; discussed production challenges and favorite varieties among growers; and enjoyed an orchard tour led by host **Paul Rasch**.

Thanks to Paul and all participants for a fabulous event!

Missed the workshop? [Click here to view the presentation slides from the speakers.](#)

Watch Tuesday's Farminar on tarping

On Tuesday, **Hannah Breckbill** and **Ryan Maher** [led a farminar about the magic of tarping.](#)

This practice to control weeds and improve soil quality makes tarps a multifunctional – and increasingly



indispensable – tool for vegetable farmers around the country.

Farminars are held Tuesdays, noon-1:30 p.m. Central Time, from January to March.

[See the full lineup and register for one that interests you!](#)

Online farm management resources from other states



The **[Census of Agriculture](#)**, taken once every five years, is a complete count of U.S. farms and the people who operate them. Even small plots of land - rural or urban - growing fruit, vegetables or livestock count if \$1,000+ /year or more of such products were raised and sold. For America's farmers and ranchers, the Census of Agriculture is their voice, their future, and their opportunity.

Increase the visibility of your work and make your voice heard!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming PFI horticulture events:

All events listed in Central Time

Horticulture Meet-Ups

Join in one of **[PFI's regional gatherings of horticulture farmers](#)** to chat about the growing season ahead. What are you excited to try? What challenges are you facing? Ask the experts - other farmers! - and build your local network.



Learn event details online and email jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org if you plan to attend.

More upcoming events:

Feb. 17: Meet-Up - [Horticulture Farmers](#)

9-11 a.m. | Des Moines, IA

Feb. 21: Meet-Up - [Horticulture Farmers](#)

10 a.m. - noon | Decorah, IA

Feb. 22-23: Conference - [Iowa Specialty Producers Conference](#)

Hosted by Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association and Iowa Wine Growers Association
Full Day | Ankeny, IA

Feb. 23-25: Conference - [Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference](#)

Hosted by Marbleseed (formerly MOSES)
Full Day | LaCrosse, WI

Feb. 24: Meet-Up - [Horticulture and Flower Farmers](#)

9-11 a.m. | Oxford, IA

Mar. 3: Meet-Up - [Horticulture Farmers](#)

9-11 a.m. | Sioux Center, IA

[View more upcoming events](#)

POLL

What would you like to hear about at horticulture field days in 2023?

Marketing and sales

Select

Weed management

Select

Equipment use and maintenance

Select

Business management

Select

Hands-on demonstrations

Select

All of these

Select

Something else -- and I'm going to email Jacqueline my idea!

Select

Previous Poll Results:

From how many sources do you buy your spring seed?

- 2-3 - 63.6%
- 1 - 18.2%
- 4+ - 9.1%
- I don't buy seed in spring - 9.1%

Send us your poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know. Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

STAY CONNECTED



CONTACT US

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